

2011

# “Defensible Space, It Could Save Your Home from a Wildfire” 2011

Maine Forest Service

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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*“Defensible Space,  
It could save your  
home from a  
wildfire”*

An educational DVD from the Maine  
Forest Service’s Forest Protection Division



Using a fire Prevention and Safety grant from FEMA, the Maine Forest Service (MFS) recently produced an educational DVD entitled, “Defensible Space, it could save your home from a wildfire.” The goal of the 20 minute DVD is to help homeowners reduce the risk of a wildfire near their homes. In 2010, seventy-five percent of all the wildfires reported to the MFS either damaged, threatened or destroyed structures in Maine.

Videotaping of the DVD began during the spring of 2010 in Northern Maine. A camp owner was willing to share the unforgettable experience of losing two eighty year old cabins to a wildfire. He had started a small campfire near his camps without realizing the dry and windy conditions were ideal for the fire to spread. The Ranger who responded to the fire wished he had the opportunity to inform the camp owner about “defensible space” and campfire safety before the tragic event occurred.

Several Maine Forest Rangers appear in the video and explain the reasons homeowners should maintain a minimum of 30’ of “defensible space” around their homes and camps.

A licensed arborist / landscaper also informs viewers how fire resistant plants can be used in place of flammable vegetation (such as softwood trees) to reduce the spread of fires near homes. Other topics covered in the video include: the daily forest fire danger report, how to be safe with recreational campfires and tips on evacuating from a wildfire.

Community leaders should contact the Maine Forest Service at 287-4990 or [maine.forestrangers@maine.gov](mailto:maine.forestrangers@maine.gov) if they would like a free copy of the DVD. Showing this video at town or association meetings is a great way to inform homeowners about how they can reduce the risk of wildfire near their homes.

The DVD can also be viewed on line at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpd/pages/wui/wui.html> or by visiting [www.maineforestservice.gov](http://www.maineforestservice.gov) and selecting the “wildland urban interface” tab.

Maine’s Forest Rangers are honored to serve the citizens, visitors of the State of Maine and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Division of Forest Protection is to protect homes and Maine’s forest resources from wildfire, respond to disasters and emergencies and to enhance the safe, sound, and responsible management of the forest for this and future generations.

[www.maineforestservice.gov](http://www.maineforestservice.gov)

**1-800-750-9777**